NUMB. LXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

—— Hic vivimus Ambitioſa
Paupertate omnes——. Juv.

Monday, May 14. 1711.

THE moſt improper things we commit in the Conduct of our Lives, we are led into by the Force of Faſhion. Inſtances might be given, in which a prevailing Cuſtom makes us act againſt the Rules of Nature, Law, and common Senſe: But at preſent I ſhall confine my Conſideration of the Effect it has upon our Minds, by looking into our Behaviour when it is the Faſhion to go into Mourning. The Cuſtom of repreſenting the Grief we have for the Loſs of the Dead by our Habits, certainly had its Riſe from the real Sorrow of ſuch as were too much diſtreſſed to take the proper Care they ought of their Dreſs. By Degrees it prevailed, that ſuch as had this inward Oppreſſion upon their Minds, made an Apology for not joining with the reſt of the World in their ordinary Diverſions, by a Dreſs ſuited to their Condition. This therefore was at firſt aſſumed by ſuch only as were under real Diſtreſs, to whom it was a Relief that they had nothing about them ſo light and gay, as to be irkſome to the Gloom and Melancholy of their inward Reflections; or that might miſrepreſent them to others. In Proceſs of Time this laudable Diſtinction of the Sorrowful was loſt, and Mourning is now worn by Heirs and Widows. You ſee nothing but Magnificence and Solemnity in the Equipage of the Relict, and an Air of a Releaſe from Servitude in the Pomp of a Son who has loſt a wealthy Father. This Faſhion of Sorrow is now become a generous Part of the Ceremonial between Princes and Soveraigns, who in the Language of all Nations are ſtiled Brothers to each other, and put on the Purple upon the Death of any Potentate with whom they live in Amity. Courtiers, and all who wiſh themſelves ſuch, are immediately ſeized with Grief from Head to Foot upon this Diſaſter to their Prince; ſo that one may know by the very Buckles of a Gentleman-Uſher, what Degree of Friendſhip any deceaſed Monarch maintained with the Court to which he belongs. A good Courtier's Habit and Behaviour is hieroglyphical on theſe Occaſions: He deals much in Whiſpers, and you may ſee he dreſſes according to the beſt Intelligence.

The general Affectation among Men, of appearing greater than they are, makes the whole World run into the Habit of the Court. You ſee the Lady, who the Day before was as various as a Rainbow, upon the Time appointed for beginning to mourn, as dark as a Cloud. This Humour does not prevail only on thoſe whoſe Fortunes can ſupport any Change in their Equipage, not on thoſe only whoſe Incomes demand the Wantonneſs of new Appearances; but on ſuch alſo who have juſt enough to cloath them. An old Acquaintance of mine of Ninety Pounds a Year, who has naturally the Vanity of being a Man of Faſhion deep at his Heart, is very much put to it to bear the Mortality of Princes. He made a new black Suit upon the Death of the King of *Spain*, he turned it for the King of *Portugal*, and he now keeps his Chamber while it is ſcowring for the Emperour. He is a good Oeconomiſt in his Extravagance, and makes only a freſh black Button upon his iron-grey Suit for any Potentate of ſmall Territories; he indeed adds his Crape Hatband for a Prince whoſe Exploits he has admired in the *Gazette*. But whatever Complements may be made on theſe Occaſions, the true Mourners are the Mercers, Silkmen, Lacemen and Milliners. A Prince of a merciful and royal Diſpoſition would reflect with great Anxiety upon the Proſpect of his Death, if he conſidered what Numbers would be reduced to Miſery by that Accident only: He would think it of Moment enough to direct, that in the Notification of his Departure, the Honour done to him might be reſtrained to thoſe of the Houſhold of the Prince to whom it ſhould be ſignified. He would think a general Mourning to be in a leſs Degree the ſame Ceremony which is practiſed in barbarous Nations, of killing their Slaves to attend the Obſequies of their Kings.

I had been wonderfully at a Loſs for many Months together, to gueſs at the Character of a Man who came now and then to our Coffee-houſe: He ever ended a News-paper with this Reflexion, *Well, I ſee all the foreign Princes are in good Health.* If you asked, Pray Sir, What ſays the *Poſtman* from *Vienna*?

Vienne, he answered, *Make us thankful, the* German *Princes are all well*; what does he say from *Barcelona*, *He does not speak but that the Country agrees very well with the new Queen.* After very much Enquiry, I found this Man of univarsal Loyalty was a wholesale Dealer in Silks and Ribbands: His Way is, it seems, if he hires a Weaver or Workman, to have it inserted in his Articles, 'That all 'this shall be well and truly performed, provided no 'foreign Potentate shall depart this Life within 'the Time abovementioned. It happens in all publick Mournings, that the many Trades which depend upon our Habits, are during that Folly either pinched with present Want, or terrified with the apparent Approach of it. All the Atonement which Men can make for wanton Expences, (which is a Sort of insulting the Scarcity under which others labour) is, that the Superfluities of the Wealthy give Supplies to the Necessities of the Poor; but instead of any other Good arising from the Affectation of being in courtly Habits or Mourning, all Order seems to be destroyed by it; and the true Honour which one Court does to another on that Occasion, loses its Force and Efficacy. When a foreign Minister beholds the Court of a Nation (which flourishes in Riches and Plenty) lay aside upon the Loss of his Master all Marks of Splendour and Magnificence, tho' the Head of such a joyful People, he will conceive a greater Idea of the Honour done his Master, than when he sees the Generality of the People in the same Habit. When one is afraid to ask the Wife of a Tradesman whom she has lost of her Family; and after some Preparation endeavours to know whom she mourns for; how ridiculous is it to hear her explain her self, That we have lost one of the House of *Austria*? Princes are elevated so highly above the rest of Mankind, that it is a presumptuous Distinction to take a Part in Honours done to their Memories, except we have Authority for it, by being related in a particular Manner to the Court which pays that Veneration to their Friendship, and seems to express on such an Occasion the Sense of the Uncertainty of humane Life in general, by assuming the Habit of Sorrow tho' in the full Possession of Triumph and Royalty.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Monday, being the 14th of May, will be presented a Play call'd, The Unhappy Favourite; or, The Earl of Essex. The Part of Essex by Mr. Wilks, Southampton Mr. Mills, Burleigh Mr. Keene, the Queen Mrs. Knight, Rutland Mrs. Rogers, Nottingham Mrs. Porter. And to Morrow being Tuesday, will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Fortune-Hunters; or, Two Fools well met. For the Benefit of Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Cox.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over-against Catharine-street in the Strand.

A curious Collection of Italian Paintings (by Giacomo and Leandro Bassan, Schiavone, Tintoret, Spagnoler, Nicola, and Gaspar Poussin, Claude Lorain, Salvator Rosa, Fran Bolognese, Mola, the Borgognon, Luca Jordano, Bourdon, and the Maltese; as also by Reubens and Vandyck, the Velvet Brueghel, Holben, Brouwer, Berchem, Schalken, Teniers, &c.) lately brought from beyond Sea: Will be sold by Auction on Friday the 18th Instant, at the three Chairs, the Corner House of the Little Piazza, Covent Garden, where Catalogues may be had, and the Pictures view'd to Day, to Morrow, and Thursday before the Sale; the House being taken up on Wednesday for an Annual Meeting.

An Essay concerning Humane Understanding: In 4 Books. Written by John Locke, Gent. The 6th Edition with large Additions, in 2 Vol. Printed for A. and J. Churchill at the Black-Swan in Pater-noster-row.

For Sale by the Candle.

On Thursday next, the 17th Instant, at Lloyd's Coffee house in Lombard-street, at 4 a Clock in the Afternoon, only one Cask in a Lot; viz. 38 Hhds of excellent new French Sauterne white Wine neat, an entire Parcel, compleating the Cargo the Prize taken by the Mary Galley, just landed; now in a Cellar in that Lead-yard on Porter's Key next the Custom-house. And 2 Butts of excellent Benecarles Barcelona Wine, very deep, bright and strong, neat, an entire Parcel, in a Cellar under the House of Madam Sterry in Savage Garden between the Arch in Crouched-friars and Great Tower-hill. All the aforesaid Wines are to be seen and tasted to Morrow and Wednesday from 7 a Clock to 1, and from 3 to 7, and all Thursday till the Time of Sale. To be sold by Thomas Tomkins Broker in Seething-lane in Tower-street.

Just Published,

The Passion of Sappho, and Feast of Alexander. Set to Musick by Mr. Thomas Clayton, as it will in a few Days be performed at his House in York Buildings. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.

Concerning the Small-Pox.

R. Stoughton, Apothecary, at the Unicorn in Southwark, having about Christmas last published in the Post-Man, Tatler and Courant, a long Advertisement of his large Experience and great Success in curing the Small-Pox, even of the worst Kind and Circumstances, having had a Reputation for it almost 30 Years, and can say, that not 3 in 20 miscarry under his Hands; both as to contract it, and only repeats, That he thinks he has attain'd to as great a Certainty therein (and the Measles, which are near of Kin) as hath been acquired in curing any one Disease, (an intermitting Fever with the Bark only excepted) which he conceives may at this Time, when the Small-Pox so prevails, and is so mortal, justify his Publication, being pressed by several so to do, and hopes it may be for the Good of many. He has had many Patients since his last Publication, and but one of all dy'd. He hath also Certificates from above 20 in a small Time cured, and of the worst Sort. What is here offered is Truth and Matter of Fact; and he will, if desired, go with any one to the Persons themselves who have been cured, many of which are People of Value and Figure. 'Tis by a correct Management, more than a great deal of Physick, by which also the Face and Eyes are much secured, tho' one Secret he has, (obtained only by Experience and which few or none know besides) that which they suddenly take in, very rarely fails of raising them again in few Hours, when all other things, and proper too, have not answered. He does not desire, nor aim at, the supplanting any Physician or Apothecary concerned, but gives his assisting Advice if desired, and in such a Way not dishonourable or injurious to either.

Just publish'd,

The Art of English Poetry, containing, I. Rules for making Verses. II. A Collection of the most natural, agreeable and sublime Thoughts, viz. Allusions, Similes, Descriptions, Characters of Persons and Things that are to be found in the best English Poets. III. A Dictionary of Rhymes. By Edward Bysshe, Gent. The Fourth Edition, 8vo. Printed for Sam. Buckley, at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and Sold by the Booksellers.

Just Publish'd,

The NATURE of MAN. A Poem. In three Books. Printed for Sam. Buckley in Little-Britain; and sold by S. Crouch in Cornhill J. Churchill in Pater-noster-row, D. Midwinter in St. Paul's Church-yard, Jacob Tonson over against Catharine-street in the Strand, and A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

The Duty of Servants: Containing, I. Their Preparations for, and Choice of a Service. II. Their Duty in Service: Together with Prayers suited to each Duty. All which may be accommodated likewise, for the most Part, to Apprentices. To which is added, A Discourse of the Sacrament, suited peculiarly to Servants: Proper to be read in Charity-Schools. The 3d Edition, by Dr. Lucas. Printed for William Innys at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church-yard.

There is now publish'd,

The Dutch Gardener: or, the Compleat Florist. Containing the most successful Method of cultivating all Sorts of Flowers; the Planting, Dressing and Pruning of all Manner of Fruit-Trees: Together with a particular Account of the Nursing of Lemmon and Orange Trees in Northern Climates. Written in Dutch by Henry Van Oosten, the Leiden Gardener. Translated into English. The 2d Edition, with great Amendments. Printed for B. Midwinter at the 3 Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard.

A Sermon Preach'd at St. Brides before the Lord-Mayor and the Court of Aldermen: On Monday in Easter-Week, 1711. By the Right Reverend Father in God, Gilbert, Lord Bishop of Sarum. Printed for John Churchill, at the Black Swan in Pater-noster-Row.

A Sermon Preach'd before the Right Honourable the Lord-Mayor and the Honourable the Court of Aldermen, and Governours of the several Hospitals of the City of London, at St. Bridget's Church in Easter-Week, 1711. Being one of the Anniversary Spittal Sermons. By Richard West, D. D. Arch-Deacon of Berks, and Prebendary of Winchester. Printed for J. Churchill, at the Black Swan in Pater-noster-Row. Price 3d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.